WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a wireless communication system having mobile subscriber units and a plurality of fixed network devices located at cell sites, a method for acquiring and managing a plurality of communication modes at each subscriber unit comprising:

first sensing whether the subscriber unit is static or mobile from the nature and quality of the communication links with nearby network devices; thereafter

enabling an acquisition protocol suited to static mode and mobile mode for said subscriber unit; and

enabling an acquisition protocol suited to mobile mode for mobile subscriber units and static mode for fixed subscriber units.

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

initiating procedures to change acquisition mode from static mode to mobile mode upon failure of the subscriber unit to sense a preselected number of consecutive scheduled polling packets sent by a linked device.

3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

initiating procedures to determine whether it is appropriate to change acquisition mode from static mode to mobile mode upon failure to transmit a preselected number of consecutive data packets

4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:

upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification.

5. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:

upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing registration of location with a name service.

6. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:

upon decision to change to mobile mode, transmitting sync packets at a higher repetitivity.

7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing third party query processes.

8. The method according to claim 3, further comprising: upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification; foregoing registration of location with a name service; foregoing third party query processes; and transmitting sync packets at a higher repetitivity.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising: upon a subscriber unit changing its BMC, causing said subscriber unit to send forwarding packets to its former bestnode, and updating a new corresponding path to a gateway resource.